

The following claims are presented for examination:

What is claimed is:

**1.** (Currently Amended) A method ~~for delivering an email message to a recipient,~~ comprising:

receiving [[said]] an email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of [[said]] the sender from a presence server, wherein [[said]] the presence status indicates a presence status of [[said]] the sender across plurality of domains; [[and]]

delivering [[said]] the email message to [[said]] a recipient with an indication of a presence of [[said]] the sender on one or more of [[said]] the plurality of domains; and

wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.

**2.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

**3.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein [[said]] the presence server translates [[said]] the presence information to a standard format.

**4.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the presence server determines [[said]] the presence status of [[said]] the sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence information.

**5.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the recipient responds to [[said]] the sender in another domain.

**6.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

**7.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the presence information is obtained from a user registration process.

**8.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the presence information is obtained by observing activities of a user.

**9.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the recipient can respond to [[said]] the sender in real time.

**10.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the recipient can respond to [[said]] the sender in non-real time.

**11.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the recipient can respond to [[said]] the sender using a non-textual form of communication.

**12.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the plurality of domains is a plurality of client domains.

**13.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the plurality of domains is a plurality of server domains.

**14.** (Currently Amended) A method ~~for delivering an email message to a recipient~~, comprising:

receiving [[said]] an email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of [[said]] the sender across a plurality of domains;

delivering the email message to a recipient with an indication of a presence of the sender on one or more of the domains and

automatically initiating a communication with a device at which the sender is believed to be present, wherein the initiated communication is not an email communication.

~~providing a mechanism with said delivered email for said recipient to automatically respond to [[said]] sender at a device associated with at least one of said plurality of domains where said sender is believed to be present.~~

**15.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein [[said]] the providing step allows [[said]] the recipient to respond to [[said]] the sender in another domain.

**16.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein [[said]] the recipient can respond to [[said]] the sender in real time.

**17.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein [[said]] the recipient can respond to [[said]] the sender in non-real time.

**18.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein [[said]] the recipient can respond to [[said]] the sender using a non-textual form of communication.

**19.** (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for delivering an email message to a recipient;~~ comprising:

a memory; and

at least one processor, coupled to the memory, operative to:

receive **[[said]] an** email message from a sender;

obtain a presence status of **[[said]] the** sender from a presence server, wherein **[[said]] the** presence status indicates a presence status of **[[said]] the** sender across a plurality of domains; **[[and]]**

deliver **[[said]] the** email message to **[[said]] a** recipient with an indication of a presence of **[[said]] the** sender on one or more of **[[said]] the** plurality of domains; **and**  
**wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.**

**20.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

**21.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein **[[said]] the** presence server translates **[[said]] the** presence information to a standard format.

**22.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** presence server determines **[[said]] the** presence status of **[[said]] the** sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence information.

**23.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient responds to **[[said]] the** sender in another domain.

**24.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

**25.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein **[[said]] the** recipient can respond to **[[said]] the** sender using a non-textual form of communication.